

CONTINUED FROM FOURTH PAGE.

the first intelligence in the form of an extract from the Essex Gazette, printed at Salem, Mass. This contained the following:—

"At Lexington, six miles below Concord, a company of militia, of about 100 men, mustered near the meeting house; the troops came in sight of them just before sunrise, and, running within a few rods of them, the commanding officer accosted the militia in words to this effect:—'Disperse, you rebels, damn you; throw down your arms and disperse!' Upon which the troops buzzed and immediately one or two officers discharged their pistols, which were instantaneously followed by the firing of four or five soldiers, and then there seemed to be a general discharge from the whole body. Eight of our men were killed and nine wounded. In a few minutes after this action the enemy renewed their march for Concord, at which place they destroyed several carriages, carriage wheels and about twenty barrels of flour, all belonging to the province. Here about 150 men going toward a bridge, of which the enemy were in possession. The latter fired, and killed two of our men, who then returned the fire and obliged the enemy to retreat back to Lexington, where they met Lord Percy, with a large reinforcement and two pieces of cannon."

The article continues, giving the same account of the Lexington skirmish held elsewhere, and concludes:—

"The public most sincerely sympathize with the friends and relations of our deceased brethren, who gloriously sacrificed their lives in fighting for the liberties of their country. By their noble, intrepid conduct they have endeavored their memories to the present generation, who will transmit their names to posterity with the highest honors."

"We suppose a circumstantial account will be prepared and published by authority. The above is the best we have been able to obtain. We can only add that the town of Boston is now invested by a vast army of our brave countrymen, who have done us to our assistance from all quarters."

The London Chronicle further announces:—

"Yesterday stock fell 1½ per cent, on account of the above news."

GENERAL GAGE'S OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE. The London Gazette of June 10, 1775 (Number 11,568), was the first journal in London to announce the official news of the Battle of Lexington. The Gazette being then, as now, the official organ of the British government, was favored with the earliest official despatches. The issue of the London Gazette of that day consisted of two leaves, or four pages, of about seven by twelve inch paper. At the head of the first column, in its largest type, appeared the following:—

"WHITEHALL, June 10, 1775.

"Lieutenant Nunn, of the Navy, arrived this morning at Lord Dartmouth's office, and has brought letters from General Gage, Lord Percy and Lieutenant Colonel Smith, containing the following particulars of what passed on 19th April last, between a detachment of the King's troops, in the province of Massachusetts Bay, and several parties of rebel provincials, viz:—

"General Gage, having received intelligence of a large quantity of military stores being collected at Concord, for the avowed purpose of supplying a body of troops to act in opposition to His Majesty's government, detached on the 18th of April, at night, the grenadiers of his army and the light infantry under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Smith, of the Tenth regiment, and Major Pitcairne, of the marines, with orders to destroy the said stores; and the next morning eight companies of the Fourth, the same number of the Twenty-third and Forty-ninth, and some marines marched under the command of Lord Percy to support the other detachment."

Lieutenant Colonel Smith finding, after he had advanced some miles on his march, that the country had been alarmed by the firing of guns and ringing of bells, despatched six companies of light infantry, in order to secure two bridges on either side of Concord, and upon their arrival at Lexington, found a body of the country people drawn up under arms on a green close to the road, and upon the King's troops marching up to them, in order to inquire the reason of their being so assembled, they went off in great confusion, and several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall, and also from the meeting house and other houses, by which some men were wounded and Major Pitcairne's horse shot in two places. In consequence of this attack by the rebels the troops returned the fire and killed several of them, after which the detachment marched on to Concord without anything further happening, where they effected the purpose for which they were sent, having knocked off the trunnions of three pieces of iron ordnance, burnt some new gun carriages and a great number of carriage wheels, and thrown into the river a considerable quantity of flour, gunpowder, musket balls and other articles. While this service was performing great numbers of the rebels assembled in many parts, and a considerable body of them attacked the light infantry posted at one of the bridges, on which an action ensued, and some few were killed and wounded."

"On the return of the troops from Concord they were very much annoyed, and had several men killed and wounded by the rebels firing behind walls, ditches, trees and other ambushes, but the brigade under the command of Lord Percy having joined them at Lexington with two pieces of cannon, the rebels were, for a while, dispersed; but, as soon as the troops resumed their march, they began again to fire upon them from behind stone walls and houses, and kept up to that manner a scattering fire during the whole of their march of fifteen miles, by which means several were killed and wounded, and such was the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels that they scalped and cut off the ears of some of the mounted men who fell into their hands."

"It is not known what number of the rebels were killed and wounded, but it is supposed that the loss was very considerable."

"General Gage says that too much praise cannot be given to Lord Percy for his remarkable activity during the whole day, and that Lieutenant Colonel Smith and Major Pitcairne did everything that men could do, as did also the officers in general, and that the men behaved with their usual intrepidity."

"This is followed by a return of the rank and file killed and wounded, prisoners and missing on the 19th of April, 1775, summing up 62 rank and file killed, 157 wounded, 24 missing. Signed 'His Gage.'"

BRITISH PRIVATE SOLDIERS ON THE BATTLE. Many contemporary letters of British soldiers were intercepted and found their way into print in the months of April and May, 1775. One of these, dated Boston, April 8, 1775, has the following, which, as will be seen, is tolerably full of romance:—

"The laying of the tax on the New England people caused us to be ordered for Boston, where we remained in peace with the inhabitants till on the night of the 18th of April. Twenty-one companies of grenadiers and light infantry were ordered up into the country about eighteen miles, where, between four and five o'clock in the morning, we met an incredible number of people of the country in arms against us. Colonel Smith, of the Tenth regiment, ordered us to march on them with our bayonets fixed, at which time some of the peasants fired on us, and our men returning the fire, the engagement began."

"They did not fight us like a regular army, only like savages—behind trees and stone walls and out of the woods and houses, where, in the latter, we killed numbers of them, as well as in the woods and fields. These people are very numerous and full as bad as the Indians in our fighting and cutting the dead men's ears and noses off, and then they get alive that are wounded and cannot get off the ground."

Another soldier's letter reads as follows:—

Boston, April 28, 1775.

The grenadiers and light infantry marched for Concord, where were powder and ball, arms and cannon mounted on carriages; but before we could destroy them all we were fired on by the country people, who, not being brought up in our military way, as ourselves, we were surrounded all ways in the woods. The firing was very hot on both sides. About two in the afternoon the Royal

THURSDAY MAY 25 1775.

NEW YORK

RIVINGTON'S

WEEKLY

Connecticut, Hudson's River,

WEEKLY

PRINTED at his OPEN and UNINFLUENCED PRESS fronting HANOVER SQUARE.

A size of BRAD, Flour at 16s. per cut.

A wheaten Loaf of the finest Flour, to weigh 1 lb. 13 oz. for 4 coppers.

Published the 3d of April, 1775.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 13.

AFFIDAVITS and depositions relative to the commencement of the late hostilities in the province of Massachusetts-Bay; continued from our last:

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

JOHN PARKER, of lawful age, and commander of the militia in Lexington, do testify and declare, that on the 19th instant, in the morning, about one of the clock, being informed that there was a number of regular officers riding up and down the road, stopping and insulting people as they passed the road; and also that a number of regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order to take the province stores at Concord; ordered our militia to meet on the common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be disturbed, nor meddle or make with said regular troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us, and upon their sudden approach I immediately ordered our militia to disperse and not to fire; immediately said troops made their appearance and rushed furiously, fired upon and killed eight of our party, without receiving any provocation therefor from us.

JOHN PARKER.

We, Nathaniel Clarkhurst, Jonas Parker, John Munroe, junr., John Winnip, Solomon Pierce, John Murray, Abner Mesad, John Bridge, junr., Ebenezer Bowman, William Munroe, 3d, Micah Hager, Samuel Sanderford, Samuel Hastings, and John Brown, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New England; and all of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the nineteenth of April last, about one or two o'clock, being informed that a number of regular officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceding, and that some of the inhabitants as they were passing had been insulted by the officers, and flogged by them; and being also informed that the regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order (as it was said) to take the colony stores there deposited at Concord; we met on the parade of our company in this town; after the company had collected, we were ordered by Captain John Parker (who commanded us) to disperse for the present, and be ready to attend the beat of the drum; and accordingly the company went into houses near the place of parade. We further testify and say, that about five o'clock in the morning we attended the beat of our drum and were formed on the parade—we were faced towards the regulars then marching up to us, and some of our company were coming to the parade with their backs towards the troops; and others on the parade began to disperse when the regulars fired on the company, before a gun was fired by any of our company on them; they killed eight of our company, and wounded several, and continued the fire until we had all made our escape.

Signed by each of the above Depoits.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I Timothy Smith, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, being of lawful age, do testify and declare that on the morning of the nineteenth of April last, being on Lexington-common as a Spectator, I saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company then dispersing, and likewise saw the regular troops fire on the Lexington company, before the latter fired again; I immediately ran, and a volley was discharged at me, which put me in imminent danger of losing my life; I soon returned to the common and saw eight of the Lexington men who were killed, and lay bleeding at a considerable distance from each other; and several were wounded, and further faith not.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

We, Levy Mead and Levy Harrington, both of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, and of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the nineteenth of April, being on Lexington-common as a Spectator, we saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company, and some of the regulars on horse, whom we took to be officers, fired a pistol or two on the Lexington company, which was then dispersing. These were the first guns that were fired, and they were immediately followed by several volleys from the regulars, by which eight men belonging to the said company were killed, and several wounded.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, William Draper, of lawful age, and an inhabitant of Colrain, in the county of Hampshire, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, do testify and declare, that being on the parade of said Lexington April 19th instant about half an hour before sunrise the King's regular troops appeared at the meeting house of Lexington. Captain Parker's company, who were drawn up back of said meeting house on the parade, turned from back of troops, making their escape by dispersing. In the mean time, the regular troops made an huzza and ran towards Captain Parker's company, who were dispersing; and immediately after the huzza was made the commanding officer of said troops (as I took him) gave the command to the said troops "Fire! fire! damn you, fire!" And immediately they fired before any of Captain Parker's men fired, I then being within three or four rods of said regular troops; and further faith not.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, Thomas Fessenden, of lawful age, testify and declare, that being in a pasture near the meeting house at said Lexington, on Wednesday last, at about half an hour before sunrise, I saw a number of regular troops pass speedily by said meeting house, on their way towards a company of militia of said Lexington, who were assembled to the number of about one hundred in a company, at the distance of eighteen or twenty rods from said meeting house; and after they had passed by said meeting house, I saw three officers on horse back, advance to the front of said regulars, when one of them being within six rods of the said militia, cried out

he comes to Boston he may have a wife in every house he comes to, for the women are left at home while the men go to fight the soldiers. We vex the Americans very much by cutting down their liberty poles and alarm posts."

The Journal of London continued to print dribbles of intelligence about the Lexington skirmish for weeks. The affidavits of John Hoar, John Adams and others, of Middlesex county, setting forth the wanton and unprovoked conduct of the King's troops at Concord, were printed at full length in the London press, and created much excitement.

Intelligence of the first bloodshed in America in the Revolutionary war reached France and Holland at about the same time—namely, the first week of June, 1775. The *Gazette de Leyde*, or *Nouvelles Extraordinaires du Mardi 6 Juin 1775*, contained the following, which we give in translation:—

"We learn from London that hostilities have at last commenced in New England, where there has been bloodshed on both sides. The circumstances which have had made battle are the more curious

"disperse you rebels immediately" on which he brandished his sword over his head three times; meanwhile the second officer who was about two rods behind him, fired a pistol pointed at said militia, and the regulars kept huzzing till he had finished brandishing his sword, and when he had thus finished brandishing his sword, he pointed it down towards said militia, and immediately on which the said regulars fired a volley at the militia, and then I ran off as fast as I could, while they continued firing till I got out of their reach. I further testify, that as soon as ever the officer cried "disperse you rebels" the said company of militia dispersed every way as fast as they could; and while they were dispersing, the regulars kept firing at them incessantly, and further faith not.

THOMAS FESSENDEN.

Lincoln, April 23, 1775.

I, John Bateman, belonging to the fifty-second regiment, commanded by Colonel Jones, on Wednesday morning, on the nineteenth day of April instant, was in the party marching to Concord, being at Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, being near the meeting house in said Lexington, there was a small party of men gathered together in that place, when our said troops marched by; and I testify and declare, that I heard the word of command given to the troops to fire, and some of said troops did fire; and I saw one of said party lie dead on the ground high said meeting house; and I testify that I never heard any of the inhabitants fire one gun on said troops.

JOHN BATEMAN.

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

We, John Hoar, John Whitehead, Abraham Garfield, Benjamin Munroe, Isaac Parker, William Holmer, John Adams, Gregory Stone, all of Lincoln in the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts-Bay, all of lawful age, do testify and say, that on Wednesday last we were assembled at Concord, in the morning of said day, in consequence of information received, that a brigade of regular troops were on their march to the said town of Concord, who had killed six men at the town of Lexington; about an hour afterwards we saw them approaching to the number, as we apprehended, of about twelve hundred, on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the said troops then took possession of the hill where we were first posted; presently after this we saw other troops moving towards the North-bridge, about one mile from the said Concord meeting-house; we then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them, to the number of about two hundred arrived; they there left about one half of their two hundred at the bridge, and proceeded with the rest towards Colonel Barrett's, about two miles above the said bridge; we then facing several fires in the town, thought the houses of Concord were in danger, and marched down towards the said bridge; the troops that were stationed there, observing our approach, marched back over the bridge, and then took up some of the planks; we then hastened our march towards the bridge; and when we had got near the bridge they fired on our men, first three guns one after another, and then a considerable more; and then, and not before, (having order from our commanding officers not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the regulars and they retreated. On their retreat through the town of Lexington to Charlestown, they ravaged and destroyed property, and burnt three houses, one barn and one shop.

Signed by each of the above Depoits.

We, Benjamin Tidd of Lexington, and Joseph Abbot of Lincoln, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New England, and of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the morning of the nineteenth of April instant, about five o'clock in the morning on Lexington Common and mounted on horse we saw a body of regular troops marching up to the Lexington company, which was then dispersing, soon after the regulars fired first a few guns, which we took to be pistols from some of the regulars who were mounted on horses, and then the said regulars fired a volley or two, before any guns were fired by the Lexington company, our horses immediately started and we rode off, and further faith not.

Benjamin Tidd. Joseph Abbot.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

Simon Winnip of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and province of Massachusetts-Bay, New-England, being of lawful age, testify and faith, that on the nineteenth of April instant, about four o'clock in the morning, as he was passing the public road in said Lexington, he saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company, and some of the regulars on horse, whom we took to be officers, fired a pistol or two on the Lexington company, which was then dispersing. These were the first guns that were fired, and they were immediately followed by several volleys from the regulars, by which eight men belonging to the said company were killed, and several wounded.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, James Marr, of lawful age, testify and say that in the evening of the eighteenth instant, I received orders from George Hutchinson, adjutant of the fourth regiment of the regular troops, stationed at Boston, to prepare and march, to which order I attended, and marched to Concord, where I was ordered by an officer with about one hundred men to guard a certain bridge there: While attending that service, a number of people came along as I suppose to cross said bridge; at which time a number of the regular troops fired upon them.

[To be concluded in our next.]

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NEW-JERSEY, MAY 16.—

SPEECH of His Excellency WILLIAM FRANKLIN, Esq., Captain General, Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the Province of NEW-JERSEY, and Territories thereon depending in America, Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same, &c.

To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the said Province, Convened at Burlington.

Gentlemen of the Council, and Gentlemen of the General Assembly.

THE sole occasion of my calling you together at this time is to lay before you a resolution of the House of Commons wisely and humanely calculated to open a door to the restoration of that harmony between Great-Britain and her American colonies on which their mutual welfare and happiness so greatly depend.

This resolution, having already appeared in the public papers, and a great variety of interpretations put upon it, mostly according to the different views and dispositions by which men are actuated and scarcely any having seen it in its proper light, I think I cannot at this juncture better answer the gracious purposes of His Majesty, nor do my country more essential service than to lay before you as full an explanation of the occasion, purport and intent of it as is in my power. By this means you, and the good people you represent, will be enabled to judge for yourselves how far you ought or ought not to acquiesce with the plan it contains, and what steps it will be prudent for you to take on this very important occasion.

You will see in the King's answer to the joint address of both Houses of Parliament on the 7th of February, how much attention His Majesty was graciously pleased to give to the assurance held out in that address, of the readiness of Parliament to afford every just and reasonable indulgence to the colonies whenever they should make a proper application on the ground of any real grievance they might have to complain of. This address was accordingly now followed by the resolution of the House of Commons now laid before you. A circumstance which afforded His Majesty great satisfaction, as it gave room to hope for a happy effect, and would, at all events, ever remain an evidence of their justice and moderation and manifest the temper which has accompanied their deliberations upon that question which has been the source of so much disquiet to the King's subjects in America.

His Majesty, ardently wishing to see a reconciliation of the unhappy differences by every means through which it may be obtained without prejudice to the just authority of Parliament, which His Majesty will never suffer to be violated, has approved the resolution of his faithful Commons, and has commanded it to be transmitted to the governors of his colonies, not doubting that this happy disposition to comply with every just and reasonable wish of the King's subjects in America will meet with such a return of duty and affection on their part as will lead to a happy issue of the present dispute, and to a re-establishment of the public tranquility on those grounds of equity, justice and moderation which this resolution holds forth.

What has given the King the greater satisfaction in this resolution, is his having seen that, amidst all the imperance into which a people, jealous of their liberties, have been unfortunately misled, they have nevertheless avowed the justice, the equity, and the propriety of subjects of the same State contributing, according to their abilities and situation, to the public burdens, and this resolution, it is thought, holds no proposition beyond that.

It would probably be deemed unjust to suppose, that any of the King's subjects in the colonies can have so far forgot the benefits they have received from the parent State as not to acknowledge that it is to her support, held forth at the expense of her blood and treasure, that they principally owe that security which has raised them to their present state of opulence and importance. In this situation, therefore, justice requires that they should, in return, contribute according to their respective abilities, in common defence; and their own welfare and interest demands that their civil establishment should be supported with a becoming dignity.

It has been the care, and it is the firm determination of Parliament, to see that both these ends are answered, and their wisdom and moderation have suggested the propriety of leaving to each colony to judge of the ways and means of making due provision for these purposes, referring to themselves a discretionary power of approving what shall be offered.

The resolution neither points out what the civil establishment should be nor demands any specific sum in aid of the public burdens. In both these respects it leaves full scope to that justice and liberality, which may be expected from colonies, that, under all these prejudices, have never been wanting in expressions of affectionate attachment to the mother country, and a zealous regard for the general welfare of the British empire, and therefore the King trusts that the provision they will engage to make for the support of civil government will be adequate to the rank and station of every necessary officer, and that the sum to be given in contribution to the common defence will be offered on such terms, and proposed in such a way, as to increase or diminish, according as the public burdens of Great-Britain are from time to time augmented or reduced, in so far as those burdens consist of taxes and duties which are not a security for the national debt.

By such a mode of contribution the colonies will have full security that they can never be required to tax themselves without Parliament taxing the subjects of Great-Britain in a far greater proportion, and it may be relied upon that any proposition of this nature made by any of the colonies, and accompanied by such a state of their faculties and ability as may evince the equity of the proposal, will be received with every possible indulgence; provided it be accompanied with any declarations, and unmixt with any claims which will make it impossible for the King, consistently with his own dignity, or for Parliament, consistently with their constitutional rights, to receive it. But it is not supposed that any of the Colonies will, after this example of the temper and moderation of Parliament, adopt such a conduct; on the contrary, the pleasing hope is cherished that the public peace will be restored and that the colonies will enter into the consideration of the resolution of the House of Commons with that calmness and deliberation which the importance of it demands, and with that goodwill and inclination to a reconciliation which are due to the

Whatever may be the event, it is certain that we are on the eve of seeing rivers of blood flow and citizens deriving their origin from the same country, subjects of the same King, bent on their mutual destruction."

The next issue of the *Leyden Gazette*, June 16, 1775, announced that the whole Continent of America was agitated with an incredible ardor, and that the Provincials were very numerous, resolved to defend their rights and liberties at every cost, and were abundantly provided with arms, ammunition, provisions and all necessaries generally.

WORCESTER, April 26, 1775.

Hannah Bradish, of that part of Cambridge, called Menotomy, and daughter of Timothy Paine, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, Esquire, of lawful age, testifies, and says that about five o'clock on Wednesday last, afternoon, being in her bedchamber with her infant child, about eight days old, she was surprised by the firing of the King's troops and other people, on their return from Concord; she being weak and unable to get out of her bed, in order to secure herself and child

candour and justice with which Parliament has taken up this business and at once declared to the colonies what will be ultimately expected from them.

It has been already observed that the King entirely approves the resolution of the House of Commons, and I have His Majesty's commands to say, that a compliance therewith by the General Assembly of New-Jersey, will be most graciously considered by His Majesty, not only as a testimony of their reverence for Parliament, but also as a mark of their duty and attachment to their Sovereign, who has no object nearer to his heart than the peace and prosperity of his subjects in every part of his dominions. At the same time, I must tell you, His Majesty confides himself as bound by every tie to exert those means the constitution has placed in his hands, for preferring that constitution entire, and to resist with firmness every attempt to violate the rights of Parliament, to distress and obstruct the lawful commerce of his subjects, or to encourage in his colonies ideas of independence inconsistent with their connections with Great-Britain.

Here, Gentlemen, you have a full and candid state of the disposition and expectations of His Majesty and the Parliament. They require nothing of America but what the colonies have repeatedly professed themselves ready and willing to perform. A late Assembly of this province, in their petition to the King in 1766, express themselves thus:—"As no danger can approach Britain, without giving us the most fertile alarm; so your Majesty may be assured that with filial duty we shall ever be ready to afford all the assistance in our power, and stand or fall with that kingdom, from which our descent, and to which we are attached by the strongest ties of duty, gratitude and affection." And in a subsequent petition, they say, "Very far it is from our intentions to deny our subordination to that august body (the Parliament) or our dependence on the kingdom of Great Britain: In these connections and in the settlement of our liberties, under the auspices influence of your Royal House, we know our happiness consists; and therefore to confirm these connections, and to strengthen this settlement, is at once our interest, duty, and delight."

Similar declarations have been repeatedly made in other colonies. The following vote was passed in the Assembly of Pennsylvania many years ago, to wit, "The House taking into consideration the many taxes their fellow subjects in Great-Britain are obliged to pay towards supporting the dignity of the Crown, and defraying the necessary and contingent charges of government, and willing to demonstrate the fidelity, loyalty and affection of the inhabitants of this province to our gracious Sovereign, by bearing a share of the burden of our fellow subjects, proportionable to our circumstances, do, therefore, cheerfully and unanimously resolve, That three thousand pounds be paid for the use of the King, his heirs and successors, to be applied to such uses as he, in his royal wisdom, shall think fit to direct and appoint." And the said three thousand pounds were afterwards paid into His Majesty's Exchequer, by the Agent of the province accordingly.

Nor can I avoid mentioning what was done in the convention of committees from every county in Pennsylvania, who met in July last for the express purpose of giving instructions to their Representatives in Assembly on this subject. Several of these instructions manifest such a candour and liberality of sentiment, such just ideas of the importance of our connection with Great-Britain, and point out so rational a method to be pursued for obtaining redress for the supposed grievances (previous to any attempt to distress the trade of that kingdom) that it is greatly to be regretted that the conduct of America, in a matter of such vital importance to its future welfare, had not been regulated by the principles and advice they suggested. In these instructions, speaking of the power Parliament had claimed and lately exercised, the Convention say, "We are thoroughly convinced they will prove unfailing and plentiful sources of diffinition to our Mother country and to these colonies, unless some expedients can be adopted to render her secure of receiving from us every emolument that can in justice and reason be expected, and secure us in our lives, properties and an equitable share of commerce. Mournfully revolving in our minds the calamities, that, arising from these diffinitions, will most probably fall on us and our children, we will now lay before you the particular points we request of you to procure, if possible to be finally decided: and the measures that appear to us most likely to produce such a desirable period of our distresses and dangers." Then, after enumerating the particular acts of Parliament which they consider as grievances, and desire to have repealed, they add, "In case of obtaining their terms, it is our opinion, that it will be reasonable for the colonies to engage their obedience to the acts of Parliament, commonly called the acts of navigation, and to any other acts of Parliament declared to have force, at this time, in these colonies, other than those above mentioned, and to confirm such statutes by acts of the several Assemblies. It is also our opinion, that taking example from our mother country in abolishing the courts of ward and liveries, tenures in capite, and by Knight's service and purveyance, it will be reasonable for the colonies, in case of obtaining the terms before mentioned, to settle a certain annual revenue on his Majesty, his heirs and successors, subject to the control of Parliament, and to satisfy all damages done to the East India Company. This our idea of settling a revenue, arises from a sense of duty to our Sovereign, and of esteem for our mother country. We know, and have felt the benefits of a subordinate connection with her. We neither are so stupid as to be ignorant of their, nor so unjust as to deny them. We have also experienced the pleasures of gratitude and love, as well as advantages from that connexion. The impositions are not yet erased. We consider her circumstances with tender concern. We have not been wanting, when constitutionally called upon, to assist her to the utmost of our abilities; inasmuch that she has judged it reasonable to make us recompense for our overfrained exertions: And we now think we ought to contribute more than we do to the alleviation of her burthens. Whatever may be said of these proposals on either side of the Atlantic, this is not a time either for timidity or rashness."

We perfectly know that the great crisis now agitated is to be conducted to a happy conclusion, only by that well tempered composition of council, which firmness, prudence, loyalty to our Sovereign, respect to our parent State, and affection to our native country, united must form."

"In case of war, or any emergency of distress, we shall also be ready and willing to contribute all aids within our power."

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

WORCESTER, 26, April 26, 1775.

Mrs. Hannah Bradish, the above deponent, March 26th before us, the subscribers, two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the county of Worcester, and of the quorum, that the above deposition, according to her best recollection, is the truth. Which deposition is taken in presence of

THOMAS STUBBS, JAMES BRADSHAW.